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**CITIZENS UNION CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE  
NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL ELECTION 2009**

Citizens Union would appreciate your response to the following questions related to Council and election reform policy issues facing the City of New York. We plan to make public your responses to this questionnaire on our website and in other appropriate venues.

Citizens Union will also be using your answers to guide the process of evaluating candidates for this office and to assist us in determining whether to issue a candidate "endorsement."

We thank you very much for your response.

Candidate Name: Lew M. Simon Age: 49

Office to Which You Seek (Re) Election: Council District #: 32  
Member of City Council

Campaign Address:  
112-20 Beach Channel Drive Rockaway Park NY 11694

Campaign Telephone Number: (718) 945-1216 Fax: (718) 945-1216

call before faxing

Party Affiliation(s): Democrat Campaign Manager Name: Norman Silverman

Website & Email: lewsimon945@aol.com

Education: attended Brooklyn College

Occupation/Employer (or years in currently held elected

office): Community Liason for  
State Senator Malcolm Smith 14<sup>th</sup> S.D.

Previous Offices, Campaigns and Community/Civic Involvement:

Democratic District Leader 23 AD Part B Since 1994  
Queens County St. Patrick's Pkg Route Board of Directors

Are you willing to be interviewed by CU's Local Candidates Committee? YES  NO

*(Please note: Citizens Union can grant its "Preferred Candidate" and "Endorsed Candidate" rating only to candidates we have interviewed)*

Signature of Candidate: *[Signature]*  
Date: 8/18/09

### I. CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

Please state your position on the following reform measures. Specify whether you support or oppose each. You may elaborate in the space provided at the end or on additional paper.

#### VOTING AND ELECTIONS REFORM

1. What is your position on allowing independents to vote in party primaries?

Support Oppose

Comments:

I encourage voters to enroll in the party of their choice so they can vote in a primary

2. What is your position on passage of state legislation that would allow referenda initiated by the City Council and/or the public to appear on the ballot at the same time as a referendum initiated by a charter commission appointed by the Mayor?

Support Oppose

Comments:

I would strongly support this proposal and would make it my business to speak for it on the City Council.

3. What is your position on increasing the pay of election day poll workers above the current \$200 they are allotted per election event?

Support Oppose

Comments:

I have been a vocal strong supporter of increasing the pay to make it fair and equitable to ensure that all Board of Election employees are well qualified.

4. What is your position on requiring that the Board of Elections in the City of New York be included in the preliminarily and final mayor's management report?

Support Oppose

Comments:

The Board of Elections is not run by the Mayor. The Board of Elections must issue their own management report

#### CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

5. What is your position on establishing stricter requirement for the disbursement of campaign finance matching funds to candidates

Support/Oppose

that face non-competitive challengers?

Comments:

If an opposing candidate has qualified for the ballot and is campaigning actively they must be taken seriously.

6. What is your position on banning the transfer of funds that were raised in a previous election cycle into a current account?

Support  Oppose

Comments:

As one running in a special election I would have to return any remaining funds and cannot use them for the primary election.

7. What is your position on allowing campaign financing for ballot proposals?

Support  Oppose

Comments:

Financing would give independent citizens a better chance in a referendum where wealthy supporters have dominated the airwaves.

8. What is your position on lowering the campaign contribution limit for City Council candidates from the current \$2,750 for those who participate in the city's campaign finance program?

Support  Oppose

Comments:

Up to \$250 is matchable not \$2,750. Even if it is cut in half only \$250 is matchable.

9. What is your position on lowering the expenditure limit for City Council candidates who participate in the city's campaign finance program?

Support  Oppose

Comments:

With the cost of advertising and mailings in a seriously contested election, the funding is needed.

**CITY COUNCIL REFORM**

10. What is your position on allowing Council committees to function more independently of the speaker than is presently the case?

Support  Oppose

- Should committee staff be hired by and report to committee chairs?

Support  Oppose

- Should committee hearings and votes be scheduled at the

Support  Oppose

direction of the chairs?

- Should committees be able to issue subpoenas to members?

Comments:

Chairman

direction of the chairs?

- Should committees be able to issue subpoenas by a vote of their members?  Support  Oppose

Comments: We feel the Committee should work on behalf of the citizens of New York City. The Chair and members should be able function without dictation from the Speaker.

11. What is your position on eliminating or limiting stipends for committee chairs and leadership positions?

Support  Oppose

Comments:

I personally would choose to use any stipends for additional staff for the committee. Stipends should not be given to committee chairs who do not have active agendas.

12. What is your position on consolidating the current City Council committee structure and reducing the number of overall committees?

Support  Oppose

Comments:

Committees dealing with similar issues should be merged. All committee members should be required to attend committee meetings and hearings.

13. What is your position on the recent extension of term limits for the city's elected officials to three consecutive four-year terms? Please explain your answer.

Support  Oppose

Comments:

I oppose the way the Mayor and the Council handled the issue. If a change was favored a referendum should have been held.

14. What is your position on modifying the City Charter to require that changes to term limits may only be approved by the voters?

Support  Oppose

Comments:

Absolutely.

**POLICY ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE**

15. What is your position on transferring prosecutorial power over substantiated claims of police misconduct to the Civilian Complaint Review Board? If oppose, what would you propose to ensure sufficient public oversight and effective adjudication in handling claims of alleged police misconduct?

Support  Oppose

Comments: The Civilian Complaint Review Board must have the power to follow up on their decisions.

16. Do you believe that the State Legislature should renew mayoral control of the city's public schools in its present form? If oppose, what specific changes to the current system would you recommend?

Support  Oppose

Comments: The school board system where local parents grandparents + other voters could elect the local Superintendent is used all over NY State. The Chancellor should be a qualified educator.

17. What is your position on establishing mandatory inclusionary zoning standards and requirements for all new residential development projects? If so, what should be the minimum percentage set aside for low income households? <sup>housing</sup>

Support  Oppose

Comments: The city must have affordable <sup>housing</sup> for working people at all income levels. There is a major need for affordable housing.

18. What is your position on changing the current land use process under ULURP to limit the role of community-based planning?

Support  Oppose

Comments: Community residents must have the strongest voice in determining standards to protect their communities from greedy developers.

19. What is your position on the Ravitch Commission's recommendations for new revenue sources for funding the MTA and altering its governance? Please explain your answer, as well as your thoughts on how the experiences of the debate surrounding the city's efforts to implement congestion pricing can inform the current discussion.

Support  Oppose

Comments: A broad based payroll tax would provide most of the funds needed for maintaining MTA services. We found the proposal for congestion pricing ridiculous. If the transportation for people in my district was improved the use of cars going to Manhattan would be reduced.

## CAMPAIGN PROMISES BEING MADE TO VOTERS IN 2009

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Citizens Union is adding a new element to its evaluation of incumbents running for re-election. In addition to evaluating their stances on the issues above, Citizens Union will assess incumbents on how well they kept the promises they made to voters during the previous election.

As a candidate who presently does not hold elected office, CU is interested in knowing what are the top five promises you are making to the voters during this campaign?

We thank you very much for your response. Please feel free to use additional paper if the space provided is not sufficient.

### TOP FIVE CAMPAIGN PROMISES BEING MADE IN 2009

1. We have made support of better mass transit (the reopening of the Rockaway Beach line) improved A train service and express bus service a priority.
2. We strongly support construction of schools to provide seats for children in overcrowded schools or forced to travel to distant areas.
3. We are fighting to maintain Senior Citizen centers and Meals on Wheels for the many seniors in our community.
4. We have demanded reform of the system of testing and hiring of lifeguards and scheduling coverage until 8 PM to protect local residents and visitors. (Work with Community Board 14)
5. We will expand our efforts to make apprentice training and jobs available to community residents



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Please return to: Citizens Union, Local Candidates Committee  
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via fax to 212.227.0345